



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Lynn Horine to Demonstrate Gourd Pine-Needle Baskets at Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

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BEREA, Ky. – On Saturday, May 5, Lynn Horine, of Bedford, will demonstrate her gourd pine-needle baskets from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Originally from Southern California, Horine moved to Kentucky 44 years ago to settle with her husband in his home-town of Bedford. Horine has always been interested in the arts, and, except for instruction in oil painting and quilting, she is essentially a self-taught artist. After reading the Foxfire books about Appalachian culture, she became interested in basketry and began creating Appalachian-style baskets. It was while trying to make a pine-needle basket from a kit that she found a material she really loved.

Reading books by North Carolina pine-needle basket-maker Judy Mallow, Horine began experimenting with pine-needle basketry. The pine needles she uses come from the longleaf pine trees of North Carolina – each needle being about 12-17 inches in length. These pine needles require cleaning and must be soaked in hot water for about three hours. The caps are then removed, and the needles dried, before they can be bundled together. Horine uses artificial sinew or waxed nylon thread and an upholstery needle to build and wrap the needles into coils.

Coming across information about gourd baskets, Horine taught herself how to clean and prepare gourds for use with her pine-needle coiled work. The gourds are purchased “dirty” and must be soaked in soap and bleach and scrubbed with a wire brush or pot scraper. She states, “It’s like Christmas, as you never know what beauty is under all the mold and gunk!”

After the gourd is clean and dry, it is cut open with a rotary tool or jig saw. Then the inside of the gourd must be scraped and sanded. Horine sometimes enhances the gourd surfaces with wood stain, paint or leather dyes. She attaches her pine-needle coils by piercing the gourd with an ice pick and sewing the wrapped coils of pine needles into the planned openings, sometimes adding slices of walnuts, pine cones or other materials to embellish her gourd baskets.

Horine is a juried member of the Kentucky Guild of Artists & Craftsmen and her works are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate -75 at Berea exit 77. The center’s exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The center currently features works by more than 650 artisans from 100 counties across the Commonwealth and a special exhibition, “About Face: Kentucky Artisan Works Inspired by the Human Face,” on display through Aug. 26. For information call 859-985-5448 or visit the center’s website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Lynn Horine creates Pine-Needle Gourd Baskets at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea